THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes Sir. Department of Post continued to incur losses Madhavrao deficit during the last five year and twenty out of the twenty six services offered by Department of Posts were subsidized over the years.

(b) The revenue deficit of the Department for the last three years is as under:-

(Rs. In Crores)

Year	Revenue deficit
2005-06	1209.88
2006-07	1249.52
2007-08	1511.44

(c) The Department has been taking steps to increase the revenue through introduction of new products, market development activities and adoption of customer oriented strategies. Speed Post, Business Post and Retail Post as a premium service has been consistently growing. The Department of Posts is also using its vast network for retailing of financial products, services and agency functions thereby adding to the Department's revenue. Moreover, Department has also included value added money transfer services to its port folio like instant Money Order Service and International Money Transfer.

(d) Such details are not available with the Department.

Preference to private postal companies by public

420. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that public is preferring private postal companies than Government due to which post offices are running in the losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government is taking to upgrade the post offices by which it can compete with private postal companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above;

(c) However, steps have been initiated by the Department of Posts to upgrade postal services (as indicated below).

(i) Wet leasing of freighter aircraft for North East Region for faster conveyance of mails.

(ii) Modernization and up gradation of post Offices with a view to give better services to customers.

(iii) Computerization and networking of post offices with a view to provide faster services to customers.

(iv) Implementation of Core Banking Services in Post Offices.

(v) Setting of Mail Business Centres in order to provide end-to-end solution to customers.

Better connectivity of North-Eastern Region

421. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the North Eastern Region is not well-connected with the rest of the country;

(b) whether it has undertaken the work of constructing roads and new railway lines in that region; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) **Road Connectivity**

Government has, *inter-alia*, approved the Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North East (SARDP-NE) covering 9,713 km. roads in the region to be implemented under Phases A and B and the Arunachal Pradesh Package of Roads and Highways as detailed below:

(i) SARDP-NE Phase-A : Phase-A of SARDP-NE covers 2,569 km., out of which 1,415 km. has been approved for execution and balance 1,154 km. approved 'in-principle'. So far, Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for 977 km. at a cost of Rs.2,789 crore have been approved for execution under Phase-A of SARDP-NE.

(ii) SARDP-NE Phase-B : Phase-B of SARDP-NE covers 4825 km. which is approved for preparation of DPR.

(iii) Arunachal Pradesh Package of Roads and Highways: The Arunachal Pradesh Package of Roads and Highways covers 2,319 km. and has been approved for implementation at an estimated cost of Rs. 12,513 crore and Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) of Rs. 7,096 crore.

The construction of 678 km. stretch of the East West Corridor from Srirampur to Silchar in Assam is being undertaken by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) at an approximate cost of about Rs.6,000 crore. Further, 706 km. of road stretches in the North East Region have been included under the National Highway Development Programme-III (NHDP-III) to be implemented on Built Operate Transfer (BOT) on toll basis.